



April 2004

Dear Fellow Bethelites:

How is your training going? I am not referring to a forgotten or forsaken New Year's resolution. My question is regarding your training in godliness? Have you been "working out" your faith in God's gymnasium?

In living for Jesus Christ, we certainly find a measure of "resistance training" in our experience. For me, giving has always been one of those areas. It is difficult, it often hurts, and many times I feel like I just can't do it!

This, too, is part of our training. Giving *is* hard, but why do we give? Is God broke or in financial trouble? Of course not! The giving we do strengthens us and conditions us in the area of godliness. It helps me evaluate progress. Do I trust God or do I just say I trust God? Do I love God or do I just say I love God?

Giving is indeed an exercise that allows us an opportunity to grow, and to express our love to our Lord.

So like a good personal trainer – I am here to assist you and to remind you: Go ahead, you got it, you can do it! This godliness training is good for you.

"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." - Paul's training instructions to Timothy (1Timothy 4:8)

We're training with you.

On behalf of the elders,

*Don Gaynier*